

P.O. Box 162
West Wardsboro, Vermont 05360

January 4, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

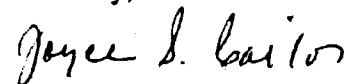
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to give my utmost support to Bill Gates and Microsoft. My husband and I live in Wardsboro, Vermont, a town with a total of 500 registered voters. If you blink, you miss our town. We had a goal of making our town library into something special. The library was bequeathed a house by a resident, so we had the space, but we had no computer capabilities. We applied to the Gates Foundation, figuring all we could lose from doing so would be a piece of paper and the cost of postage. To our surprise, Mr. Gates gave us a grant; a complete software on-line integration package, printer connectivity, and on-site software training for our librarian. People are now lined up to use our computers.

Bill Gates did not have to do this. He did not have to establish his foundation. Yes, he makes millions of dollars, but he gives away millions of dollars to those who desperately need funds to provide computer capability to their small towns. Everyone lauds small towns, but very few are there when those small towns need financial help. Bill Gates stepped in when no one else would. We are now on our way to having a viable, working library, making it an integral part of the community, and giving our children a place to go and learn.

Microsoft is taking a big hit with this lawsuit, but it is willing to accept a lot of restrictions in order to settle. How many businesses would be willing to share their sensitive information with their competitors like Microsoft is doing with the internal interfaces of Windows under this settlement? Microsoft and Bill gates were there for Wardsboro. Now I support Microsoft by supporting the antitrust settlement.

Sincerely,


Joyce Cailor